

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 17, 2006, claims 1-20, all claims pending in the above-captioned U.S. Patent Application, were rejected and the rejection was made Final. Applicant's have carefully considered the Office Action and submit the amendments *supra* and the arguments *infra* as a full and complete response. Applicants submit further that the amendments introduce no new matter, raise no new issues for examination and place the application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9. Claims 1-2 are submitted for reconsideration, as amended.

A rejection under 35 USC 112 first paragraph has been made. The rejection is a reverse homology assertion. Applicants have claimed components- amines and ethers with metal ions and their conjugate gegenions. The Office has posited that the claim scope is expanded to include unclaimed components- a speculative argument. Given the comparative simplicity of the experimentation required to perform the invention and the limited range of claimed elements, predictable claim scope is readily apparent to those with skill in the art. Experimentation may be done facily with minimal temporal requirement.

Claims 1 through 3, 8, 9, 11 and 13 through 20 had been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over U.S. Patents 5,256,821 and 5,723,664. The references teach solids solubilized in a solvent such as acetonitrile. The result is not an ionic liquid but ions in a liquid.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to specify that the liquid is a neat liquid which fully distinguishes over the salts of the references. Support for the amendment may be found, *inter alia*, at paragraph [0025].

In view of the amendments and remarks above, applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and favorable action thereupon.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Herbert O'Toole
Registration No. 31,404
Attorney for Applicant(s)
NEXSEN PRUET, LLC
P.O. Box 10107
Greenville, SC 29603
Telephone: 864/ 370- 2211
Facsimile: 864/ 282-1177

Enclosures: 1-month Extension of time
Notice of Appeal

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by Jacqueline Beavers

